

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previously-filed claim listings.

1.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of providing direct blood flow between a heart chamber and a coronary vessel, the method comprising the steps of:

inserting an instrument through an anterior wall of the coronary vessel;

further inserting the instrument through a posterior wall of the coronary vessel and a heart wall between the heart chamber and the coronary vessel to form a passageway in the heart wall; and

~~inserting a nonrigid~~ radially expanding an implant within the passageway.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the implant includes a stent.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[17]]~~ 15, wherein expanding the implant includes expanding the implant from a collapsed configuration.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the passageway in the heart wall is formed via one of lasing, drilling, and boring.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein inserting the instrument includes inserting an incising instrument.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein ~~inserting~~ expanding the implant includes ~~inserting~~ expanding an implant carrying a substance for delivery to the heart wall.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the substance is chosen from angiogenesis factors and nucleic acid instructions for angiogenesis factors.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the substance is for at least one of generating, stimulating, and enhancing blood vessel formation.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, ~~wherein~~ further comprising inserting the implant in the passageway ~~includes inserting the implant~~ via a catheter.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, further comprising advancing the catheter to the passageway via the heart chamber.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising removing the instrument from the heart wall prior to ~~inserting~~ expanding the implant in the passageway.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising advancing the implant past the posterior wall of the coronary vessel and into the passageway.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising advancing the implant past the anterior wall of the coronary vessel.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The method of claim 15, providing direct blood flow between a heart chamber and a coronary vessel, the method comprising the steps of:~~

~~inserting an instrument through an anterior wall of the coronary vessel;
further inserting the instrument through a posterior wall of the coronary vessel
and a heart wall between the heart chamber and the coronary vessel to form a
passageway in the heart wall; and~~

~~inserting an implant within the passageway,
wherein the implant does not extend substantially along an axial direction of the
vessel.~~

30.-42. (Canceled)